

## Those Who Choose Xmas Gifts Here May Rest Assured They Have Chosen Wisely and Well

If it is any member of the family to be remembered or some gentleman friend or sweetheart, as the case may be, why not bestow a gift that they will really care for, something useful rather than ornamental; something practical and full of service. You will find hundreds of such gifts here all priced moderately.

### We Suggest Any of These:

#### FOR THE MEN

**SHIRTS**—Beautiful collection of Shirts in all the newest patterns. \$1.00 TO \$2.00

**SILK HOSE**—Pure Silk Hose in all the leading colors. Prices range from 25c PAIR UP

**COLLARS**—Why not a collar for an Xmas present? They are always acceptable. Many styles to choose from. 15c, 2 PAIRS 25c

**BATH ROBES**—Make an ideal Christmas gift. We are offering an extra special value in Men's Bath Robes at \$2.50

**COMBINATION SETS**—Consisting of arm band and garters, also sets consisting of hose, tie and handkerchief to match, up from 50c

**PAJAMAS**—Is as useful a gift as one could wish for. See our selection from \$1.00 UP

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**GLOVES**—Are always good for gifts. Complete assortment from the best makers from \$1.00 TO \$4.00

**HANDKERCHIEFS**—A stunning selection of Ladies' Handkerchiefs in Xmas boxes. By the box of six 35c UP

**NECKWEAR**—All the newest creations in many qualities and styles; always pleasing and serviceable, from 25c UP

**HAND BAGS**—The newest ideas of the season in Hand Bags, in a good variety of styles, from \$1.00 UP

**WAISTS**—Are always acceptable and make excellent gifts. An extensive line to choose from, in values up from \$1.00

**JEWELRY**—Beautiful production of the best makers. Bracelets, Chains, Purses, etc., up from 50c

**NO. 1121**—Does your savings bank correspond with this number? If so, bring bank in for identification and receive \$1.00 free.

# Fletcher's

The Store That Pays No Rent

## THE HASKIN LETTER Our Meat Supply Beef

By Frederick J. Haskin.

Alarmists have predicted that the rapid and steady diminution of our meat supply during the last few years will continue until there is a veritable meat famine in the United States. On the other hand well-informed men have stated that the supply will be restored to normal and prices reduced by raising more cattle on the farms of the South by a system of leasing the public lands for grazing purposes, by "improvements" from the Argentine, from Australia, from New Zealand, by raising more hogs, by eating more fish, and by half a dozen other plans and adjustments. This conflict of testimony leaves the average citizen wondering whether he is soon to become a vegetarian porpoise or to be blessed with more meat than he can eat.

A careful consideration of all the factors involved in the situation leads to two inevitable conclusions: first, that there is not going to be any meat famine; and second, that the day of cheap beef is gone in the United States forever.

There will never be such a shortage of beef in this country that the supply will actually be inadequate to the legitimate needs of the people, because the United States has the range to raise the cattle, and the corn to fatten them. The present shortage is due to a readjustment of methods of production to a new order to produce the best that the range can give as cheap in this country as it was ten or fifteen years ago, because its production has been permanently placed upon a much more expensive basis. Where once cattle were raised upon an unlimited free range, perhaps the richest in the world, they are now raised upon a limited range, which must be either owned and fenced, or leased and supervised by the government, and used with the utmost economy in order to produce the best that the nation requires. And whereas cattle were fattened a generation ago on corn which cost but fifteen or twenty cents a bushel, and was so abundant that middle-western farmers used for fuel, they are now fattened on corn at fifty and sixty cents a bushel, raised upon land worth one hundred to two hundred dollars an acre. The farmer does not feel that he has a mission to supply the world with cheap beef. He will demand and obtain a fair profit.

Beef from the Argentine and Australia has not had a material effect upon the price, and is not likely to do so in the future. There is not enough of it, and the European market is too large. Considering the changed conditions of production, it is futile to talk about cheap beef as a future possibility. Americans will have beef to eat in the future, as they have in the past. They must have beef to eat in the future, as they have in the past. They must have it. With the exception of the peoples of Australia and New Zealand, where meat is one of the cheapest foods, Americans eat more meat than any other people in the world. In 1900, when meat was cheap and abundant, one-third of all the nutrient consumed by the American people was meat. When it is realized that the peoples of many European countries are satisfied with a meat ration of twice a week, the significance of this figure is appreciated.

The present shortage in the beef supply is due largely to the transition from one method of production to another. The curtailment of the western range naturally resulted in the production of fewer cattle. The high price of corn made it unprofitable to fatten them in stalls, feed yards and corrals, as they have been fattened before. As a result, much of the scanty supply of range cattle want to be marketed in poor condition, and many calves were killed because it was too expensive to raise them, thus further reducing the already inadequate supply and wasting many pounds of beef. The situation was complicated by drought, by low wool prices which caused a shortage in mutton at the same time, and by scarcity of meat all over the world.

These conditions have undoubtedly for the time being reduced the beef supply to an alarmingly low ebb. There were about 51,000,000 beef cattle in the country in 1907, and only 30,000,000 in 1913. The per capita production of beef in 1907 was 211.2 pounds, and in 1913 it was 136.2, while at the beginning of the present year it was estimated that only 160.5 pounds of meat would be provided for every inhabitant. The per capita exportation of meat declined from 32 pounds in 1900 to 2.7 pounds in the fiscal year 1913.

In considering the means by which this shortage is to be repaired, it is natural to begin with the western range, which is, and must continue to be, the source of most of our beef cattle. Much has been written about the passing of the range. Dry farming and irrigation projects have made available for agriculture much land that was formerly used for cattle grazing. Where once the picturesque cow-puncher blithely galloped limitless prairies, a la Frederick Remington, there are now corn-fields and churches and schools. All this is true, but, nevertheless, the range has not passed. What is gone is the old frontier life, which was full of romance and color, but extremely wasteful from the point of view of the economist and the scientific farmer. The regime of the old-time, gun-toting, whooping, slang-slinging cowboy might almost be said to have produced more popular fiction to the acre than it did beef.

The range has not passed, and the proof of it is that there are now in the Rocky mountain and Pacific states some 200,000,000 acres of public land which have not been taken up, which are suitable for grazing, but are not now, and in the opinion of the government experts, never will be agricultural. True this area is but a small patch upon the vast domain where the cattle business flourished twenty years ago, but there is every reason to believe that with proper management and with intelligent co-operation upon the part of the men that fatten and kill the cattle, it will supply

the people of the United States with beef for many years to come. At present this range is supplying a quantity of beef which meets the needs of the people, although at a very high price, and is leaving a small surplus, especially of fats, to be exported. And this despite the fact that the greater part of the range is not essentially managed, that the range cattle are being killed before they are properly made, and that the whole business of beef production is in a state of chaos.

The most vital factor in the meat situation is, therefore, to learn how to handle this 200,000,000 acres of permanent range so that it will produce the greatest possible amount of beef per acre. This is, and long has been, realized by the men who are studying the question from the broadest standpoint. The forest service has evolved a method of range management which has almost doubled the beef production of the national forests. It consists chiefly in the use of deferred and rotation grazing, so that the forage crops may be matured; in the improvement of watering places and the establishment of artificial ones; in the definite separation of ranges used by sheep and cattle, and in expert supervision of the use of the range by federal officers.

In the application of these methods to the great permanent range upon the public lands is the fundamental solution of the beef question. It is conservatively estimated that the capacity of the public lands can in that way be increased fifty per cent. With fifty per cent more cattle to fatten and kill, the beef supply of the United States would be safe for many years to come.

The principal other factor to be reckoned with is the method of fattening the cattle. Formerly this was done in stockyards, upon purchased grain. The rise in the price of corn made that method unprofitable. Then cattle were fattened on the farms where the grain was raised. A drought and a scarcity of corn compelled many farmers engaged in this business to sell their cattle before the animals had been properly fattened. But the great increase in the price of beef has put this business upon a more profitable basis than ever, and there is no doubt that all of the cattle produced on the ranges will be fattened on the farms.

A glance at the other means by which it has been suggested that our beef cattle will be increased. The most important of these is the raising of cattle upon southern farms. There is undoubtedly a great deal of land in the South not under cultivation, which might be utilized as pasture. Some of this is now so utilized, and a large number of cattle, mostly of small scrubby stock, are annually produced. The great obstacle to both the improvement of the breed of stock, and the increase of numbers, are the cattle tick and the Texas fever. These afflictions stunt the native stock, and kill the imported. By years of labor and the expenditure of great sums of money, the Department of Agriculture has exterminated the cattle tick in about one-fourth of the area it formerly infested, and has also made some progress against the Texas fever. The production of cattle in these areas has improved both in quality and amount, and will doubtless continue to improve. The South, at present, produces only a fraction of the meat eaten in that section. It is possible that she will come to supply her own demands.

The much-heralded importation of beef from the Argentine, as the result of freedom from tariff duties, has not amounted to much. Neither have those from Australia, New Zealand or Canada, although some is received each year from each of these countries. The relative unimportance of these imports, however, is shown by the fact that they constitute less than two per cent of the meat we consume.

Tomorrow: Our Meat Supply. II.—Mutton.

## PINS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY PRESENT WAR

They and Needles Will Cost No More This Christmas though Imported.

Pins and needles, although almost entirely imported from England, will cost no more this Christmas than last, unless the present supply is exhausted by the insistent demand for these practical articles. The entire stocks now on sale were purchased last summer before the war began, and therefore are not affected by commercial problems which have developed since.

Shopping statistics show that with a decrease in other departments, the fascinating leather cases of needles made for holiday purposes have advanced one third over that of the corresponding period last year. Saleswomen add that in nine cases out of ten they are bought as suitable gifts for women engaged in war relief work.

The prosaic pin in holiday guise is a close second in favor. Whether in a bright colored box or stuck in cushions surmounted with gay little peasant figures from Germany, the Christmas history of the pin points conclusively to the fact that women are demanding practical things for their money rather than the "gimmicks" of the past.

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**\$5,300.00**

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Six rooms and both,  
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Ten room, two story frame building, two baths, lot 32x80 feet, price \$5,000.00, and including cottage in the rear which rents for \$13.00 per month, making lot 32x120 feet. Price **\$6,000.00** for both properties.

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Two story frame, slate roof dwelling, right in the heart of town  
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Two very high class properties, see us for price and terms.

**DESPARD ADDITION**  
Two lots in the Despard addition 40x160 feet, extending back to a 20 foot alley,  
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**CARR AVENUE**  
Two lots on Carr avenue 36 1-2x130 feet,  
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**CORNER CARR AVENUE AND DUNCAN STREET**  
Lot 58 feet frontage by 145 feet in depth.  
**Price \$1,500.00**

**CORNER OF LEE AND SEVENTH STREET**  
Lot 31x80 feet, alley in rear  
**\$2,500.00**

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REAL ESTATE BROKER  
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Abnormal teeth or the absence of part of the teeth may cause NERVOUSNESS, HEADACHES, and a broken down system as well as bad facial appearance.



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A full set of teeth, \$8.00 and a 10-year written guarantee.

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MASONIC BLDG. CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

## NEUTRAL NATIONS

Hold Their First International Conference Since the European War Broke Out.

(SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—Twenty nations of the Western Hemisphere met here this week and expressed their disapproval of the effects of the operations of the European belligerents in the waters of the two Americas, and appointed a commission of diplomats to formulate practical steps contemplating a more vigorous assertion of the rights of neutrals. It was the first international conference of neutral nations of the globe since the war began, and, irrespective of its possible accomplishments during the present conflict, was regarded as the birth of a new movement in international law for the definition of the right of the neutral as opposed to the right of the belligerents. A permanent committee was named, consisting of the secretary of state of the United States, and the ambassadors from Brazil, Chile and Argentina, and the ministers from Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras and Cuba.

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Combined with the sterling quality of the Yonke-Coffman Tailoring Co. standard, insure your clothes will be a pleasure to wear. Let us have your order today for that new Suit.

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